

PUBLIC LAND ELK Hunt

Information and Booking Packet

Thanks for booking with Compass West Outfitters. We are honored that you are trusting us with what we hope will be one of many great hunts with us. We hope you are as excited about this hunting season as we are!

Call or text Chris on his cell at 505-860-3197 or call our office at 505-801-7500 anytime you have a question. Our email address is info@compasswestoutfitters.com if you prefer to email us. Our home and mailing address is:

Compass West Outfitters, LLC
33 Road 25531
Aztec, NM 87410

*Please note, this is our office, **not** necessarily the location closest to your hunt when looking at driving directions/airports. We will supply driving directions closer to your hunt date.

Please **always leave a name and a phone number in your message** as we don't always have your personal information with us. We are very good about returning phone calls, but please remember that during hunting season we are in very remote areas and may only be able to retrieve our messages every couple of days as many of the areas we hunt still lack cell phone service. **Please call the office in hunting season first!**

The following is information we hope you find useful when preparing for your hunt:

Deposits: Your deposit is due within 14 days of booking or the draw. We accept personal check, cashier's check or money order. Checks can be made payable to "Compass West Outfitters, LLC" and mailed to the above address.

Cancelation policy: Your deposit is refunded (less a handling fee of 15% of the total cost) only if you can fill your spot with a new hunter. No-shows will be charged the full amount. **We HIGHLY recommend our hunters carry trip insurance.** You can consult with your insurance agent to learn how to obtain trip insurance. You can also check out this link <https://globalrescue.com/compasswestoutfitters/index.html>

All disputes over billing will be handled by the San Juan County court in New Mexico between March 1st and August 15th.

Final Payments: **Final payment is due no later than 60 days before your hunt date.** If you are less than 60 days out please call us to arrange your payment. If you have a balance due when you arrive in New Mexico, the final payment **MUST BE PAID IN CASH BEFORE YOU HUNT.** **Personal checks will not be accepted in camp.**

Included in Package Price: Most bow hunts are 7 days guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1), 7 nights. Extra days can be added at the front end of the bow hunt for an additional fee. Normal rifle/muzzleloader hunt packages are 5 days guided hunting (1x1 or 2x1). Extra days are NOT a possibility on muzzleloader or rifle hunt. Meals and lodging are included unless specified otherwise or other arrangements have been made.

New Mexico hunts may be based from tent camps, RV's, hotel, motel, or cabin. We will talk with you personally about plans. You should plan on a MIX of any of the above, but we will 100% know 30 days before your hunt starts.

Not Included in Package Price: Travel to/from hunt camp. New Mexico license fee, habitat and HMAV stamps and NM sales tax. Tips for guide and cooks/camp-helper, meat processing, meat storage (area meat lockers charge \$20-30/day for storage) or shipping of cape or meat. Taxidermy or alcohol are also not included. Sleeping bags pillows and towels are not provided.

We will help you handle your trophy in the field and can help you get in touch with local meat processors/taxidermy shops as well as transport meat to closest butcher for you.

Many times the closest liquor store to camp could be 2+hours for anything other than basic whiskey and beer. You can get beer about 45 min from most camps, so please plan ahead if you desire alcoholic beverages.

Air Travel:

In **Unit 34** you will want to fly into El Paso, TX (3 hours) or possibly Albuquerque (5 hours, but a greater selection of flight times). **Unit 36** should look at El Paso, TX (3.5 hours) or Albuquerque, NM (4 hours, but a greater selection of flight times). Talk with us about your airport choice *before* you book your flight if you have questions.

Unit 2, 7 and the Gila we recommend flying into Albuquerque for the number of flights available and best rates, however for **unit 2 or 7:** Durango, CO is very close as well.

PLEASE call for airport suggestions.

Gratuity:

It is customary to tip your guides based on your overall experience. For the cooks and camp-helper/packer, Cooks \$75 -\$100 per week per person is common, a packer that gets you animal for you I would recommend \$100 unless you really wanted to pack out all that meat! For guides \$600-1000+, is customary, but again, please base your tip on

your experience. The cost of scouting, quality gear is increasing every year, this is where the guides recoup money they spent looking for your dream bull or buck. Gratuity should not reflect number of days in the field or harvest, but rather the experience you enjoyed.

Our Wounded Animal Policy on Public Land Hunts:

A wounded animal is an animal that has been hit by bullet or arrow and a single drop of blood has been found. Should you wound an animal, you and your guide will cease hunting, and will spend the next **24 hours** looking for that wounded animal.

If you are unable to find this wounded animal after the 24 hours, you may continue to hunt under certain conditions: **you will no longer have the option of harvesting a “meat bull”.** **You will be hunting for 300+ bulls only, there will be no harvest of any bull smaller than this, even on the last day of the hunt.**

If a 2nd animal is wounded, this will be the end of the hunt. You will spend the remainder of your hunt looking for both wounded animals until the end of your hunt, or until you depart. This policy applies to any species animal we are hunting.

Gun policy: Guns need to have a clear chamber at all times (including vehicle travel). Your guide will let you know when to chamber your weapon in the field.

Empty chamber applies to night as well. Should you have a gun chambered in camp you will be asked to leave at once, no refunds will be given. We prefer all guns to be left in the guide's truck or your vehicle in camp.

Accidental discharge of a weapon AT ANY TIME will result in you leaving camp immediately. No questions asked. Your hunt is over. No refunds will be given.

Drug/alcohol policy: It is unlawful in NM to hunt while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, including medical marijuana.

Cell Phones:

There is NOT ALWAYS CELL PHONE reception in our camps, If you must have cell service during your hunt, talk with us about your location and we can give you a heads up to the service quality/location available. In Unit 34, 36, and 16 hunters will most likely have to drive to a spot to receive cell phone service. Verizon is spotty, ATT cell service is abysmal.

Drinking Water: we will **not** have bottled water in camps, but we always have clean safe drinking water in camps that you can use to fill your refillable bottle. If you must drink bottled water please bring some to camp. You will want to pack a Camel Back or other drinking bottles to re-fill in camp and bring with you to the field. Sorry if this is a problem for some people, but we just can't keep putting 300+ cases of water bottles in the landfills every year.

After Hours Emergencies:

For emergencies, our best number to call is the office number **505-801-7500**. Karin mans the office during the hunting season while Chris is in the field. Should you find yourself lost on your way at night or your family need to get in touch with you, you can call this number and she will do her darndest to get in touch with Chris, your guide, or the camp manager. Should anyone need to reach you in camp, they may call/text Chris' cell 505-860-3197 (however he does NOT always have service every day). Should they call this number after hours a voice messaging system is in place and we will give you the message when we hear it. Texting is the very best way to reach Chris the fastest. In 2016 we found some new unexpended areas close to camp where we can text most of the time, but only if we are standing in a specific spot.

Camp Locations and Meeting Locations: We will provide you detailed directions to camp closer to your hunt date. We spend the summer tracking animal movements, and use this information to determine our camp location. As a result, most years we will not have a set location until later in August or even later on some hunts. You will not need a 4x4 to access any of our camps.

Unit 34 hunters: Most years our camps are located between Weed, NM and Pinon, NM off HWY 24 near the Avis Cemetery. We will provide you with detailed driving directions to the camp, **DO NOT USE A GPS to find camps in unit 34** - you will be taken terrible routes *do NOT take 506 for any reason on way from El Paso to camps in 34!! Specific driving directions will be sent in late summer, as well as exact camp locations.

Gila areas: We will provide you with special instructions for meeting up with guides and finding camps for these hunts. Animal movements and late summer rain play a major role in camp locations for these hunts.

Unit 36 hunters: Unit 36 hunters will almost always meet guides in Ruidoso, NM at a White Mountain taxidermy studio. It's a great easy to find meeting place. Specific instructions will follow closer to hunt date.

Unit 2: Camps in these locations are generally difficult to find on your own, and as such we have hunters meet guides in order to be escorted into camp in the parking lot of the Farmers Market grocery store on the corner of HWY 550 and HWY 64 in Bloomfield, NM AFTER **2PM**. If you arrive early relax have lunch or? This hunt location camps are very hard to find and following guides into camps is the best way to go! We will provide you will a contact phone number later in the year for the camp manager in this area.

Hunting License – ***Closer to your hunt date we will email detailed step-by-step directions to walk you through the following process.***

If you drew your tag, NM Game and fish will mail you the licenses and carcass/horn tag. Be sure it includes your game hunting license (\$65) as well as the habitat stamp (\$5) and the habitat management and access validation (\$4) If not, you will need to purchase/print the stamps at home, or purchase your license at a physical game and

fish office, Walmart, Cabela's or Sportsman's Warehouse in New Mexico.

If you purchased a landowner tag, you will need to go purchase the same licenses/stamps as above, but you will also need to convert your authorization/ranch number into a hunting license.

After your harvest: In the Field: Once you have killed an animal, guides will then help you as little or much as you like in dealing with the downed animal. If we are in an area that we can drive to we'll load it in the truck, or help to pack it out on our backs. Or mules.

Your hunt is concluded at this point, after your meat and cape are dropped off at the meat processor/taxidermist. You are welcome to hang out in camp until all hunters are tagged out but this is discouraged, as you will not return to the field with guides after you have tagged out if you were on a 1x1 hunt. If your buddy is still hunting, please, for the good of his hunt, let him hunt with the guide. I know it's not exciting to sit around camp, but YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED let your buddy have the best chance to do the same. You are not helping by tagging along, you are hurting his chances!!!

Mandatory Harvest Report after your hunt – the state of NM requires ALL hunters to fill out their mandatory harvest report whether you were successful or not. You will want to log on to your NM Game and Fish account after the hunt to complete this step. If you don't complete this step you will not be eligible for the NM draw next year. You can also call NM Game and Fish at (888) 248-6866 to complete your harvest report over the phone.

If you have any questions, please **do not hesitate** to call us any time: **505-801-7500 (office) or 505-860-3197 (Chris' cell phone)**

E-mail us at: info@compasswestoutfitters.com

NOTES:

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR HUNT:

GET IN SHAPE AND PRACTICE WITH YOUR WEAPON! – You WILL get out of a hunt what you put in to it ahead of time!

You will be hunting at an elevation of at about 6800'-8500 or higher. Many of you are coming from 500' or less and you're not used to the thin air like we are. Do what you can to help get your lungs ready! Even just walking for an hour a day will benefit you. Use a backpack with sand or other weight in it when you walk to get ready. If you can ride a bike or stair stepper you're going to be happy you did!

It's your hunt - guides will let you set the pace, but they will push you as they want to see you have a successful hunt. For what you are paying per day, spend some time getting ready! YOU are the one that will pay for it with a sub-par hunt, blistered feet and a crappy time overall if you don't shoot on sticks and get some exercise before you get here. Anything you can do to get ready is going to help you. There is nothing more depressing than seeing that big buck/bull on day 3 and having to run as fast as you can up a steep hill and just not having the energy to do it.

Your Ideal Hunt: Rain is the determining factor to the trophy quality of EVERY hunt we offer in New Mexico. I have killed 290 average elk in a unit that the year before we killed a 340 average. Precipitation levels in the spring (March- June) will dictate the horn growth of the animal we are hunting.

Please be sure to talk with your guide about the quality of animal that you're looking for. In the field, your guide can help advise you as to the quality of animals you are seeing, but remember that ultimately you make the call as whether or not you shoot or don't shoot. We want you to harvest the largest animals possible, but every animal you let walk is a risk of not tagging out. Remember that opportunities are not unlimited on fair chase hunts.

Please talk with Chris or the office if you feel that we have made a bad call on your guide assignment. I've been in the outfitting biz for 25+ years and do a good job at lining out people MOST of the time. Please privately make us aware if you feel I was wrong.

We are aggressive hunters. That's why we have killed over 90% harvest and 100% shot for the last 10 years. We like to walk and hike and glass for animals along the way. We are not trying to kill you, we just really want you to harvest as badly as you do! This means if you need a break you're going to have to tell us when YOU need to sit on waterholes and feeding areas to take a break and recharge. It's your hunt, you need to set the pace!

Bow Hunters Information:

Please plan on shooting **fixed blade broad heads**. In the last 12 years we have recovered one animal shot with expandable blades. Yes, one! If you need help PLEASE call us anytime to talk more about ideas for fixed blades that shoot like expandables. Slicktrick 4 blade 100g, Exodus 125g and Whack'em 125g and Iron Will (very expensive) but really nice, are some of the best shooting fixed blades you can buy. We have had BAD luck with the Montec G5's - they are dull we all hate them!!!

We also request that hunters **DO NOT use single pin adjustable sights**. They are very popular in the whitetail world now, however in the world of ELK hunting they **will** hurt your odds of harvest a great deal. You will NOT have the time to set the yardage on the sight when you are calling in elk since you never know where they are coming from. We like boss hog or Black gold 7 pin sites 30-80 yard pins and you will have no reason not to get the shot you want! Just spend a little time shooting instinctively at ranges from 0-30 yds. Spend some time shooting from various positions. Shoot from knees, leaning over, around things, over things, under branches.

Please also shoot a little heavier arrow than you do for whitetail deer, we like a 500g set up for elk. We also ask that hunters learn to shoot with your quivers attached to your bows. A Primos bow sling will be your best friend on this hunt. I would be sure to pack one!!!

Bow hunters in 34 a little in 36 and Gila: I would strongly advise that you pack and pre-treat your outer gear with permethrin you'll be glad you did. (chiggers)

Call us anytime about bow or gear questions, we are ALL bow hunters in camp!

Rifle Hunters: PLEASE learn to shoot standing on sticks. You are going to be standing 75% of the time on shots here. It's not something you should do for the first time once here. Cross canyon or over brush is almost always the way you are going to get a shot. We try for sitting shots whenever we can, but prone will almost never happen because of the terrain we hunt.

Once you have your rifle ZERO AT 200 YDS start practicing shooting off sticks. Most of the guides like and will carry the BogPod tripod with the red foam grips. Primos also makes a nice trigger stick TRIPOD that is super easy to use and easy to find. **Or get some other cheap off brand to practice, as you don't have to bring them with you,** guides will carry their own. But please, for the good of your hunt, get ready to use sticks and shoot a bunch before the hunt starts. You'll be glad you did!

You will not need to travel with your sticks, guides will have some with them in the field at all times.

Zero your rifle at 200, and be ready for 100-450+ yard shots. Most shots will be 100-400, but learn to shoot at 300-400+ and you'll be happy you did! On rifle elk hunts you really need to be solid at 300-400+ yards.

Most shooting is cross canyon and these yardages are dictated by the area and the terrain we hunt not by choice! Unit 36 hunter will want to talk with us about 450+ shots!

Take a shooting class, anything you can to get ready. Every year I hear that you can't shoot over 300 yards where you live, but just google long range shooting in your area and USE WHAT YOU FIND. You might have to join a club or travel 1-2-3-4 hours to do so. Well, you are traveling 1000 plus miles and spending a great deal of money to visit us, it's a small investment to be READY.

When practicing 300+ shots we never shoot paper, what we like to do when practicing long distances (300+ yards) is to shoot at balloons. It gives instant feedback, and if you're popping a balloon that is the same size as the kill zone on an elk, guess what - you're killing any elk you are shooting at! It build confidence at longer range! Don't discourage yourself shooting and evaluating paper.

If you are shooting MOA, please KNOW AND UNDERSTAND your gun, **have a chart on your stock** for the elevation and yardage the guide will tell you. I will not deal with another year of phone apps and in the field madness. UNDERSTAND YOUR GEAR or do what I would do, and get a turret with yardage so your guide can help! Why add a step to a stressful situation, JUST CLICK IT IN! 2019 was a nightmare for us with MOA crap!!!

Please bring a 300 or better rifle. I know 6.5, 30.06, 308, 270, 280 will all kill elk, but you will not be taking all the shots you could with these rifles. They don't shoot long well. As a rule they are the guns we leave the greatest number of elk in the woods lost with.

Back up gun- You never know, in the last 5 years more hunters then you would think have had to use backup guns, and BE SURE YOUR RINGS ARE TIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We try to have a gun in camp as a backup. If circumstances necessitate its use we do charge a \$100 ammo fee and \$500 if gun is

We also sell all the Huskamaw long range gear AND RIFLES! If you want a custom 300win (\$4500) let us know and I can get one to you before your hunt all dialed in for our elevation. I also sell all the Huskamaw ammo and long range shooting supplies.

Packing List for New Mexico public land elk

This list should help you get a better idea of what to bring. This is a GUIDELINE ONLY.

Pillow, sleeping bag and towel – either bring your own, or plan a shopping trip to Walmart once you arrive in NM - For Elk 20 to 40 will work. I always have a few extra in camp if you get cold

Gun or bow

Carcass Tag/Horn Tag Check to be sure it includes game hunting license, HMAV and Habitat Stamp. If it doesn't you will need to carry a paper copy of stamps.

Extra release, bow sling, face mask or paint, smoke in a bottle wind checker.

Ammo- Bring enough to sight in once here as well as hunting. We like to see people bring 3 boxes. Area shops carry a limited choice of ammo and if you sighted in with 180 gr. and can't find them in the area we have to start over with sighting in again!

Quiet camouflage outer gear- There is no hunters orange law in NM so we like to hunt in full camo. **Guides almost all use UA or KUIU gear but anything is good.**

Boots- solid leather boots are best. There are lots of cactus in our area as well as sharp rocks. Be sure to break them in before your hunt!

Leg Gators – good for wet mornings. Must be quiet!

Moleskin – great on blisters in case your boots aren't completely broken in.

Camera/phone

Charger brick for phone

Day pack with waist belt for support- one that will hold water, camera, binoculars, compass, snacks and jacket/coat. Any brand will do, but it needs to have a waist belt and be large enough to carry your gear. Should be around 3000 cubic inches.

Socks- Darn Tough are best sox made IMO, or smart wool of some kind. Avoid cotton.

Rain gear- We like camo if possible and packable and light weight is ideal, but overall, it must be QUIET. If it's not quiet it's likely the guide won't want you to wear it!

Dopp kit- un-scented everything like soap and shampoo.

Medications- Be sure to pack Ibuprofen or other pain killer, any and all meds you need.

Long johns- you never know! Check the weather report before travel.

Warm gear- wool and fleece with light weight layers under. The weather can change fast; you might sit still on a hill side glassing for hours. You can't have too much warm gear, the worst thing that can happen is you go home with clean un-used gear!

Butt pad- Little foam gardening pads from Lowes or Home Depot are perfect! Something small. Don't get the big ones that don't fit in your packs. If it's not small enough to fit inside your pack, don't bring it.

Binoculars- 10x42 for glassing .Talk to us more about best choices! Guides have spotting scopes but if you want bring one, DON'T buy one!

Spending cash- There are no ATM's for miles, if you want some spending cash or cash for tips, you should bring it.

Hats- Baseball and stocking bring a ball cap with a bill that you can fit a stocking cap over.

Camp shoes- Something that fits you like a glove. Boots get heavy after a full day in the field. Nothing beats that favorite pair of slippers or Crocs around the camp after a long day in the field!

Favorite Snacks- We have a ton of snacks in camp, but can't account for everyone's personal tastes. If you really like specific chips at night or snickers in the afternoon, you might want to bring it along. Power bars or Cliff bars are always a good idea if we don't make it back to the truck for lunch.

Water bottle to pack and refill!